THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 396. Monday, Feb. 24, 1823. Price 1d.

DRURY-LANE.

In the Opera of *Rob Roy*, which was acted on Saturday evening, Miss Stephens, as *Diana*, sang divinely; and Mr. Melrose, as *Frank Osbaldiston*, gained ground in public favor, by his style of singing, although he has much to learn yet. Mr. Liston was very entertaining as the *Baillie*. Mr. Cooper, acted *Rob*, with vigour, but without those fine markings of character we have been accustomed to see. It is not a part that he can *look*. Mr. Terry's *Dougal*, was excellent. Mrs. W. West is quite out of her line in such characters as *Helen*.

Miss Clara Fisher, in the Farce of *The Spoil'd Child*, delighted all by her *Little Pickle*; and Mr. Harley produced shouts of laughter at his representation of poor *Mr. Tag* the Poet.

COVENT GARDEN.

The Opera of *The Marriage of Figaro* drew to this house on Saturday night, a very genteel and pretty numerous audience. The circumstance of Miss Paton and Miss M. Tree appearing as the *Countess* and *Susanna*, of course, had its attraction. These young ladies distinguished themselves greatly in the songs, as well as by their acting. The letter-duet was effectively sung; but we take the liberty to observe, that it might have been given with more accordance of tone. The beauty of duet-singing lies in the voices assimilating as far as possible in quality, and in neither being exerted so as to overwhelm the other. Mr. Pearman as *Figaro* sung and acted very well. The character in his hands, has, as may be supposed, nothing of the *buffoon* in it. Mr. Fawcett was very entertaining in *Antonio*. Miss Beaumont makes a pretty *Cherubino*; but not so arch a one as Mrs. Chatterley. The other parts were well sustained; and the Opera, although susceptible of improvement, went off very pleasantly.

The new Farce of *The Duel; or, My Two Nephews*, met a very favorable reception on its third performance: and the Pantomime delighted all who had not seen it before.

King's Theatre Concert Room—Mr. Walker's Course of Lectures on *Experimental Philosophy*, commence to-day:—Morning and Evening.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.

NEWCASTLE THEATRE, Feb. 20—Extract of a Letter—"It is with much pain that I acquaint you with the following calamitous accident, which took place at our Theatre here yesterday evening. Shortly after the commencement of the second act of "*Tom and Jerry*," one of the gas-lights in the third box from the Stage, on the right side of the house, by some mischance, had set fire to the wood-work that enclosed the pipe. The consequence was, an immediate and very unmeasured alarm of "Fire!" pervaded the house, particularly the gallery, which, unfortunately, was very much crowded. Notwithstanding it was soon apparent to the company in the boxes and the pit, (both which places were but thinly filled) that there was little or no danger to be apprehended, the people were not to be tranquillized. Considerable efforts were made from the Stage, too, to persuade them, that if they would but patiently wait a very short time, they would see every thing restored to order. All in vain—a deaf ear was turned to the judicious advice given to them—and with a tremendous rush, they struggled for egress. Woefully distressing was the result:—*Eight individuals were literally trodden to death!* These are two young women of the names of Green and Johnson, a Mrs. Riddell Robson (the wife of a respectable builder, who himself escaped with some very terrible bruises) a fine youth, aged about fourteen, son to Mr. Wilkinson, the veterinary surgeon, a young man of the name of Handasyde, aged about eighteen, son to Mr. H. the bookbinder; an elderly person of the name of Edwards, a cellerman to Messrs. Laidler and Co. spirit dealers; a person of the name of Heaton, belonging to Gateshead; and a stranger, a stout man, apparently between forty and fifty years of age. Of course, several are wounded. I have not learnt the exact number; but I would fain persuade myself, from what I have heard, that the casualties that way are fewer than might have been expected, where so many lives have been lost. Altogether, it is a most melancholy affair; and the sombre impression it has made generally on the inhabitants, evinces the deep feeling and sympathy of the town on the distressing occasion. The Manager, Mr. De Camp, is labouring under a most agonised state of mind, in consequence of what has happened. A meeting of the Proprietors of the Theatre is summoned for three o'clock this afternoon; but as the post sets out at two, I cannot possibly transmit any account of their proceedings. It is naturally inferred, that though the season is scarcely half over, the Theatre will not be opened again till next winter. A Coroner's inquest is now sitting over the bodies of the unfortunate persons, who lost their lives in the way previously recited."

Audiences derive from this sad event, a useful lesson on the danger arising from *yielding to sudden alarm*. The only peril to be incurred, in almost any theatre, is that produced by a *rush*. Fire, in our great Theatres can hardly reach the audience part, before they could make a deliberate retreat.

Principal Songs in the Opera of "MAID MARIAN."

Ballad—Miss Tree—*A damsel stood to watch the fight.*
Song—Mr. Pearman—*The slender beech and the sapling oak.*
Song—Miss Tree—*Let us seek the yellow shore.*
Bravura—Miss Tree—*To arms! 'tis Freedom calls upon the brave.*
Ballad—Mr. Pearman—*O well do I remember that lone but lovely hour*
Duet by Miss Tree and Master Longhurst.

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Theatre Royal, Covent Garden,

This Evening the Opera of

Maid Marian.

Richard the 1st, King of England, Mr. T. P. COOKE,
Baron Fitzwater, Mr. W. FARREN,
Sir William of the Lee, Mr CHAPMAN,
William Gamwell, Mr PEARMAN,
Friar Peter, Mr KEELEY,
Friar Michael, Mr. C. KEMBLE,
Robert Fitzooth, Earl of Locksley, Mr. ABBOTT,
Prince John, Mr EGERTON,
Sir Ralph Montfaucon, Mr BAKER,
Sir Guy of Gamwell, Mr BARNES,
Little John, Mr HUNT,

Lady Matilda Fitzwater, Miss M. TREE,
Alice Gamwell, Miss BEAUMONT.

With, (45th time) a New Grand and Comic Pantomime, called

Harlequin & the Ogress,

OR, THE

Sleeping Beauty of the Wood.

Scene 1—EGYPTIAN CAVERNS.
Ogress, (the Fairy, afterwards Pantaloon) Mr. BARNES,
Scene 2—THE ENCHANTED CEDAR GROVE.
Prince Azoff, (afterwards Harlequin) Mr. ELLIAR.
Abnab, his Squire, (afterwards Whirligig) Mr. J. S. GRIMALDI,
Fairy Blue Bell, (Protector of the Sleeping Beauty) Master Longhurst
Scene 3—The OUTSIDE OF THE CASTLE.
Grim Gribber, (Porter, afterwards Clown) Mr. GRIMALDI.
Scenes 4 and 5—ENTRANCE and CHAMBER of SLEEP.
The Sleeping Beauty, (afterwards Colombine) Mrs. VEDY.
Scene 16—The ROYAL EMBARKATION for SCOTLAND,
Represented by Moving Panoramick Scenes.
Scene 17 LEITH HARBOUR, and a Grand Procession down Calton Hill in—(Scene 18)—EDINBURGH. Scene 19—Cottage and Blacksmith's Shop. Scene 20—The Palace of the Fairy Blue Bell.

To-morrow, The School for Scandal, with The Duel.

New Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening the Tragedy of

KING LEAR.

[With original Passages of Shakspeare restored]

King Lear, Mr. KEAN,
Duke of Burgundy, Mr MERCER, Herald, Mr Read
Duke of Albany, Mr THOMPSON,
Edgar, Mr COOPER, Edmund, Mr YOUNGE,
Duke of Cornwall, Mr KING, Oswald, Mr PENLEY,
Earl of Glo'ster, Mr POWELL,
Earl of Kent, Mr TERRY, Edward, Mr E. Crooke,
Captain of the Guard, Mr Coveney,
Old Man, Mr Carr, Physician, Mr Meredith,
Page to Goneril, Miss Cooper,
Page to Regan, Miss G. Carr, Herald, Mr. Read,
Goneril, Mrs GLOVER, Regan, Mrs KNIGHT,
Cordelia, Mrs W. WEST.

In Act 2. A LAND STORM.

After which, (7th time,) a new Pastoral Ballet, by Mr. NOBLE, under the title of

The Swiss Villagers.

The principal Characters by Mr. and Mrs. OSCAR BYRNE,
Mr. and Mrs. NOBLE, and Miss TREE.
Mr. MEREDITH, Mrs. WILLMOTT,
Meas. Turnour, Honner, Hope, Mathews, Godbee. White, R. Carr
Mesdms. Cooper, Tokely, Gibbons', Phillips, Valancy, Best, Pitt.

To conclude with, the Farce of

Killing no Murder!

Sir Walter Wilton, Mr. GATTIE,
Jack Wilton, *(as Bradford)* Mr. MERCER,
Mr. Apollo Belvi, Mr. LISTON, Tap Mr GIBBON,
Buskin, Mr. HARLEY,
Who will introduce, "Manager Strut was Four Feet high."
Chairmen, Messrs. Read, and Walker,
Mrs. Watchet, Mrs. HARLOWE, Fanny, Miss CUBITT,
Miss Nancy, *(with the Shepherd Boy)* Miss POVEY,

To-morrow, By Special Desire, Rob Roy, with the Swiss Villagers. and Love, Law, and Physic.